

RESOLUTION NO. 108
Prince Hall Day

WHEREAS, on March 6, 1775, Prince Hall and 14 other Black men were made Masons by Worshipful Master John Batt of Army Lodge No. 441 of the 38th regiment foot, of the British Army; and

WHEREAS, when the British Army left Boston in 1776, Army Lodge No. 441 granted Prince Hall and his brethren authority to meet (Under Dispensation). and African Lodge #1 was organized on July 3, 1776, with Prince Hall as the worshipful master; and

WHEREAS, on March 2, 1784, Prince Hall petitioned the Grand Lodge of England, through a Worshipful Master of a subordinate Lodge in London (William Moody of Brotherly Love Lodge No. 55) for a warrant or charter; and

WHEREAS, on September 29, 1784, a charter was issued to African Lodge #1, chartering it as African Lodge #459, making it a regular lodge, with all the rights and privileges of any regular lodge in the world; and

WHEREAS, in 1791, Prince Hall was appointed a Provincial Grand Master by the Grand Lodge of England, and African Lodge #459 became a mother lodge, organizing several other lodges under its charter; and

WHEREAS, in December 1808, one year after the death of Prince Hall, African Lodge #459 (Boston), African Lodge #459 (Philadelphia) and Hiram Lodge #3 (Providence) met in a general assembly of the craft and organized the African Grand Lodge; and

WHEREAS, in 1847, out of respect for their founding father and first Grand Master, Prince Hall, African Grand Lodge changed its name to the Prince Hall Grand Lodge, the name it carries today; and

WHEREAS, today, the Prince Hall Masonic Order spans across all 50 United States of America as well as lodges in Canada, the West Indies, the Bahamas, Europe, and Asia; there are over 250,000 Prince Hall Masons worldwide, working in more than 5,000 lodges who can trace their origin back to African Lodge No. 459 and the Prince Hall Grand Lodge; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable Henry Willis is the 45th Most Worshipful Grand Master of the State of Missouri and its Jurisdictions and carries on the tradition started by Brother Prince Hall over 200 years ago; and

WHEREAS, Sunday, September 11, 2016, is the day set aside in the first Masonic District of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Missouri, and its jurisdictions, to honor Prince Hall and the origins of Prince Hall Masons.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize the lineage, history, and work of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Missouri and we honor Prince Hall and the origins of Prince Hall Masons. We further direct the Clerk of this Board to spread a copy of this Resolution across the minutes of these proceedings and to prepare a commemorative copy to the end that it may be presented at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 9th day of September, 2016, by:

The Honorable Jeffrey Boyd, Alderman 22nd Ward

Adopted the 9th day of September, 2016, as attested by:

Timothy O'Connell
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen